

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Minutes of 9/25/07, 7:15 to 10:00 PM, Town Hall Annex 1st Floor Conference Room

Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Lieut. Paul Conroy, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Mike Rademacher, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, Laura Wiener.

Members of the Public Present: Suzi Lubar, Paul Romeo (from International School of Boston), Douglas Perlo

1. Administration.

August 21 minutes approved unanimously.

Correspondence was reviewed. Request for new TAC members will appear in Advocate and on Town website

Public Comment. Ravine/Irving/Academy Parking Sign Inventory and Plan, dated 9/25/07 was distributed. Recommendations include:

1. No parking zone on west side of Ravine
2. Add an additional drop off location (15 minute parking) on the east side of Academy St. at the playground
3. Make a formal School Zone with appropriate signage per state guidance.
4. Clean up some of the conflicting signs and faded signs.

All 3 members of the public who attended (see above) are in favor of eliminating parking on west side of Ravine. An email was also received from Toshihiko Taketomo at 48 Irving Street in support of proposed changes. Ms. Lubar asked about making Ravine one way. Lieut. Conroy felt that that had the potential to be more disruptive to the neighborhood traffic flow, and should only be considered after the recommended changes have been in effect and evaluated. It was noted that the schools (ACC and ISB) would have to educate and self police to some extent. Jeff noted that he, Ed and Howard had met with Matt Dolan from Arlington Children's Center (ACC), and that Paul Romeo of International School of Boston (ISB) was present. They both support these recommendations. The neighbors all noted a concern about enforcement. Lieut Conroy noted that there are only 5 officers on the road at a given time, with an increasing number of "no parking" zones. He will make his best effort to enforce, especially soon after the changes are implemented. It was also noted that the crossing guard does not have the authority to ticket. Recommendations will be voted on at next TAC meeting, Oct. 23, and then will go to Board of Selectmen for their approval.

2. Town Day Report. It was hot and well attended. Many visitors to the TAC booth.

3. Parking Recommendations. Scott presented an update to his recommendations. The 2-hour limit signs were discussed and whether they would work in the middle of a block. Increased enforcement of parking was discussed – if it isn't enforced there is poor adherence. Lieut. Conroy again noted his concern about ability to enforce increasing number of no parking areas. There was a question as to whether additional parking personnel would pay for themselves. He reported that for the first 6 months of this calendar year, a total of \$65,000 from 2,948 tickets was collected from parking fines issued by 3 part-time officers.

4. Mass. Ave. Corridor. Laura reported that there has been some progress in getting contract approval from Mass. Highway, but still no date certain for receiving a Notice to

Proceed from Mass. Highway. The Review Committee is ready to go. They will meet with consultants before and between public meetings to keep things on track.

5. Downing Square. Some funds appear to be available at DPW for a preliminary study, to have something ready to go when capital funds become available in fiscal year 08. The TAC will provide the necessary traffic measurements for this work. Jeff has made contact to get this accomplished in October.
6. Sidewalk Priorities. Ed and Scott prepared draft Criteria for new Sidewalk Priorities. Laura proposed adding High School area.
7. Westminster Update. Traffic counts have been done following new signage etc. Some improvement was noted between stop sign and Downing Square, with less slowdown noted between stop sign and Lexington line.
8. Dallin and Stratton Updates. Dallin—drop off volunteers seem to be working well. Stratton—meeting coming up to start phase 2,
9. Schools. Our “bottoms-up” approach seems to be working. We have been approached by interested parties at both the Thompson and Peirce Schools. Given ongoing work at Stratton and Dallin, this will be as much as we can currently handle.
10. Alewife Study. Laura distributed summary of a study funded by State CTPS looking at traffic on Route 2 between Alewife Circle and Alewife Station. Phase 2 has been funded and will begin soon—looking at solutions to reduce traffic, reduce use of side streets, increase biking, walking, car and van pooling.
11. Thorndike Parking. TAC role is advisory to Parks and Rec. There was discussion about parking alternatives.
12. Town News. Mike reported that the lights on Summer St. at Hospital Road are not yet coordinated with Brattle lights. Also, Town is continuing on its 12 year sewer rehab program. Notice being sent neighbors where smoke testing is occurring. Trying to coordinate where possible sidewalk and street repairs with sewer repairs.
13. Meeting adjourned at 10:05.

Handouts:

Ed’s Meeting Package: Agenda, 9/25/07, Minutes of 8/21/07; Correspondence from John Crowley, Stratton PTO Co-President, dated July 27, 2007; Active/Planned TAC Projects (8/21/07), Board of Selectmen Requests (9/25/07) Status of Outstanding Actions, Mimbbership Announcement—ver.2—9/17/07; Memo to Ed Starr from Ron Spangler dated September 14, 2007 re. Safe Routes; Memo from Maura Ware to TAC dated September 12, 2007 re. Peirce School Crosswalks; Memo from Jeffrey Maxtutis Dated September 10, 2007 re. Fall 2007 Safe Routes to School Coordinators, “SRTS Case Study: Massachusetts”; “Criteria for Ped Facilities Users Guide”; “Guidelines for Installing Sidewalks”; “Scott’s Suggested Prioritization, dated 9/20/07”; “Draft Criteria for New Sidewalk Priority”, 9/23/07”.

“Route 2/Alewife Brook Parkway Phase 1 Summary”

Draft Ravine/Irving/Academy Parking Sign Inventory and Plan, 9/25/07.